

# First Week of Advent

## Mary

*Note: Start this week with the reading! Then, do the next activity on the next day, and so on, until you have done them all.*

### **Read:**

Luke 1:26-38

### **Create:**

Use the Create Instructions and templates to make Mary and an angel.

### **Sing:**

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”  
*Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the new-born King  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem  
Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the new-born King*

### **Act It Out:**

(See script provided)

### **Share:**

Be like the angel Gabriel and send some good news! Make a card and send it to someone who needs some extra joy in his/her life. This might be a member of your family, a neighbor, or someone on your church’s “Homebound” list.

### **Pray:**

Dear God,

We want to be like the angel Gabriel and share your good news in our world. Give us courage and wisdom. We also want to be like Mary and have good listening ears from your holy messages. Comfort us when we feel scared and challenge us to be brave. In your name, we pray. Amen.

### **Thinking Questions:**

What is the best news you have heard this week?

How do you think Mary felt when she heard Gabriel’s news? How would you feel?

What part of this story is confusing?

When is it hard for you to listen?

Where have you seen God’s love this week?

## First Week: Act It Out

The angel Gabriel visits Mary with good news!

Narrator, Gabriel (speaking), Mary (speaking or not)

Note: There are two parts where you will be asked to fill in what YOU think a character said!

**Narrator:** God sent the angel Gabriel to a young lady who lived in Nazareth. This is a town in Galilee. The lady was engaged to a guy named Joseph who was a part of King David's family. The lady's name was Mary. When the angel saw Mary he said,

**Gabriel:** "Greetings! \_\_\_\_\_" (*fill in with what you think Gabriel might have said*)

**Narrator:** Mary was very confused by what the angel said and thought, "What does this mean?" The angel said to her,

**Gabriel:** "Don't be afraid, Mary, because God likes you a lot and is with you. Listen! You are going to have a baby and you should name him Jesus. He will be great, and other people are going call him the Son of the Most High. God will give him king, just like David was king. He will rule over the people of Jacob forever and his is kingdom will never end."

**Narrator:** Mary said to the angel, "\_\_\_\_\_"*(fill in with what you think Mary might have said)*. The angel said to Mary,

**Gabriel:** "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you. The baby will be holy. He will be called the Son of God. Trust God. God can do anything!"

**Narrator:** Mary said, "I'm ready, I will serve God and do what you have told me to do!" Then the angel went away.

# Second Week of Advent

## Joseph

*Note: Start this week with the reading! Then, do the next activity on the next day, and so on, until you have done them all.*

### **Read:**

Matthew 1:20b-24

### **Create:**

Use the Create Instructions and templates to make Joseph and the donkey.

### **Sing:**

“Silent Night”  
*Silent night, Holy night,  
All is calm, All is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace (repeat)*

### **Act It Out:**

(See script provided)

### **Share:**

Plug into the mission ministries at your church. This might be collecting food for your food pantry, clothing for your clothes closet, or Christmas gifts for families who cannot afford to buy gifts this year. If this is not possible, find a ministry in your community and ask how you can support their mission!

### **Pray:**

God, our Protector,

In the Bible it says that when we are afraid we should trust in you. Like Joseph, sometimes we get scared. When we feel scared, give us hope to keep on going. In Jesus’s name, we pray. Amen.

### **Thinking Questions:**

Share about a dream you have had recently.

What surprised you in this story?

How do you think Joseph felt when he woke up? How would you feel?

When have you been afraid to do something new or different?

Where have you seen someone show compassion this week?

## Week Two: Act It Out

The angel Gabriel visits Joseph in a dream  
Narrator, Angel (speaking), Joseph (speaking or not)

Note: There are two parts where you will be asked to fill in what YOU think a character said!

**Narrator:** While Joseph was sound asleep, one of God’s angels visited him in a dream. The angel said,

**Angel:** Joseph, of the family of David, “\_\_\_\_\_” (*fill in with what you think the angel might have said*). Mary is going to have a baby boy, and you are going to name him Jesus. It is important that this is his name because it means “God is with us,” and Jesus will be God with you.

**Narrator:** All this happened to explain the full meaning of what the Lord had said through the prophet:

**Prophet, reading from the scroll:** “The virgin will be pregnant. She will have a son, and they will name him Immanuel. Immanuel means “God is with us.”

**Narrator:** When Joseph woke up, he said, “\_\_\_\_\_” (*fill in with what you think Joseph might have said*). Then, Joseph did what the Lord’s angel had told him to do.

# Third Week of Advent

## Shepherds

*Note: Start this week with the reading! Then, do the next activity on the next day, and so on, until you have done them all.*

### **Read:**

Luke 2:8-15

### **Create:**

Use the Create Instructions and templates to make the shepherds and the stable.

### **Sing:**

“The First Noel”  
*The first Noel the angels did sing  
Was to certain poor shepherds  
In fields as they lay  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the king of Israel*

### **Act It Out:**

(See script provided)

### **Share:**

During the holiday season, we often go to visit friends and families. Be like the shepherds and go and share in the celebrating of Jesus' birth. You might go Christmas caroling at a neighbor's house or attend a holiday party at a friend's house. When you go, take these candy canes with you and share the joy of Jesus' coming birth.

### **Pray:**

Guiding God,

Thank you for happy times filled with good news. As your children, we celebrate like the shepherds. Our eyes are open to searching and finding you in our world. We pray this in your name, Amen.

### **Thinking Questions:**

What is your favorite Christmas song?

What seems odd to you in this story?

What do you think the shepherds thought when the angel appeared? What would you think?

When was the last time someone surprised you?

Where have you seen God's peace this week?

## Week Three: Act It Out

### The Shepherds in the Fields

Narrator, Angel (speaking), Shepherds (speaking or not)

Note: There are two parts where you will be asked to fill in what YOU think a character said!

**Narrator:** One night some shepherds were out in the fields watching their sheep. Suddenly a majestic angel from God appeared in front of them. The shepherds became very frightened. The angel said to them,

**Angel:** “ \_\_\_\_\_ ” *(fill in with what you think the angel might have said)*

**Narrator:** The angel told the shepherds that they would know who the baby was because they would find him wrapped in cloths and lying in a feeding box. Then, a very large group of angels from heaven joined the first angel. All the angels were praising God, saying:

**Angel(s):** Give glory to God in heaven, and on earth let there be peace to the people who please God

**Narrator:** Then the angels left. The shepherds said to each other, “ \_\_\_\_\_ ” *(fill in with what you think the shepherds might have said)*. And they left their sheep and went to see the newborn baby.

# Fourth Week of Advent

## Jesus

*Note: Start this week with the reading! Then, do the next activity on the next day, and so on, until you have done them all.*

### **Read:**

Luke 2:1-20

### **Create:**

Use the Create Instructions and templates to make Baby Jesus and the star

### **Sing:**

“Away in a Manger”

*Away in a manger no crib for a bed  
The little lord Jesus laid down his sweet head  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay  
The little lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

### **Act It Out:**

(See script provided)

### **Share:**

Gather as family. Make mugs of hot chocolate together! Share with one another how you are thankful, how you are hopeful, and one way you have seen or experienced God’s presence this Advent season.

### **Pray:**

Dear God,

We are so happy you sent Jesus, your son, to earth! Thank you for this gift and how much you love us. Give us joyful hearts to share your love with everyone. In your son’s name, we pray. Amen.

### **Thinking Questions:**

What has been the best part of Advent for you?

What is your favorite part of the Christmas story?

What have you learned from doing this devotional box?

Where have you seen God’s joy this week?

## Week Four: Act It Out

### The Birth of Jesus

Narrator #1 and #2, Angel, Shepherd (speaking), Mary and Joseph (not speaking)

Note: There are two parts where you will be asked to fill in what YOU think a character said!

**Narrator #1:** Augustus Caesar sent an order to all people in the countries that were under Roman rule. The order said that they must list their names in a registry. This was the first registration taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone went to their hometowns to be registered. Joseph left Nazareth, which is a town in Galilee, and he and Mary went to the town of Bethlehem in Judea. This town was known as the town of David. Joseph went there because he was from the family of David.

**Narrator #2:** Joseph registered with Mary because she was engaged to marry him. While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby. There were no available rooms in the inn. When she gave birth to her first son, she wrapped him up in a blanket and laid him in the animal's feeding box.

**Narrator #1:** That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep. An angel of the Lord stood before them. The glory of the Lord was shining around them, and suddenly they became very frightened. The angel said to them,

**Angel:** Don't be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people. Today your Savior was born in David's town. He is Christ, the Lord. This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a feeding box.

**Narrator #2:** The angel told the shepherds that they would know who the baby was because they would find him wrapped in cloths and lying in a feeding box. Then a very large group of angels from heaven joined the first angel. All the angels were praising God, saying:

**Angel:** " \_\_\_\_\_ " *(fill in with what you think the angels might have said)*

**Narrator #1:** Then the angels left. The shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened. We will see this thing the Lord told us about." And they left their sheep and went to see the newborn baby.

**Narrator #2:** The shepherds went quickly and found Mary and Joseph. The shepherds saw the baby lying in a feeding box and said, " \_\_\_\_\_ " *(fill in with what you think the shepherds might have said)*. Everyone was amazed by what they heard. Mary said they were very special to her and she would always remember them. Then the shepherds went back to their sheep, praising God and giving thanks for everything that they had seen and heard. It was just as the angel had told them.



# Create Instructions

Mary

1 A

1 B

1 C

1 E

Angel

1 A

1 B

1 C

1 D

1 E

Joseph

1 A

2 B

1 E

1 F

1 G

Donkey

1 C

1 E

2 H

Shepherds

1 A

2 B

1 E

1 F

1 G

Stable

2 I

Baby Jesus

1 E

Star

1 J

